

# THE CHABAD WEEKLY

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The titles given to Torah portions do more than distinguish one from another; they reflect the theme and overall content of each. What possible connection is there then between the title of Tazria ("Conceive") and the contents of this portion, which deal mainly with the leprous-like affliction of tzora'as - unknown nowadays - that resulted from evil gossip, Lashon HaRah.

Not only does the title Tazria seem to have no connection with tzora'as, they are seemingly antithetical:

Tazria, "Conceive," refers to birth and new life, as the verse states: "When a woman conceives and gives birth..." while tzora'as indicates the very opposite, as our Sages state: "One afflicted with tzora'as is considered as if dead."

The concept of Reward and Punishment is one of the foundations of Jewish faith. The Rambam states it thusly: "The eleventh fundament is that G-d rewards those who obey the Torah's commandments and punishes those who transgress them..."

Since the Torah is replete with verses that indicate that G-d is compassionate and merciful, it follows that His punishments are not for the sake of revenge - Heaven forbid - but are for the sinners benefit. However, it is not patently obvious that most of the Torah's punishments benefit the individual during his lifetime. This was not the case regarding tzora'as; it was clearly revealed that this benefited the person:

The Rambam writes: "This alteration [of tzora'as] that affects clothing and dwellings... was not a natural phenomenon. Rather, it was a sign and a wonder that affected the Jewish people in order to keep them from speaking Lashon HaRah. For he who speaks Lashon HaRah will have the beams of his house altered [by tzora'as].

"If he repents, then the house becomes undefiled... If he does not... ultimately the person himself will become afflicted with tzora'as, and will have to be separated from others until he ceases occupying himself with evil speech, scoffing and Lashon HaRah."

Thus, G-d reordered nature to keep individuals from engaging in Lashon HaRah. Tzora'as would first afflict a person's home, then his clothing, and finally his person, in order to tell the sinner, gently at first and then more severely, to stop indulging in Lashon HaRah.

Even the punishment of the person himself, which required that he "sit alone; outside the camp shall be his dwelling," [8] was for the purpose of seeing to it that he "cease occupying himself in evil speech, scoffing and Lashon HaRah."

The reason why this portion is titled Tazria will be understood accordingly: Tazria, "Conceive," is the beginning of life. The tzora'as itself, as well as the person's dwelling alone, are not so much meant as a punishment, but as a means of rectification and healing, enabling one to begin a new lifestyle free of Lashon HaRah. All aspects of Torah serve as a lesson. Tzora'as, then, was clearly for the benefit of the individual. The same is true of all punishments in the Torah; they are all for the rectification of the sinner, that he return to the proper path in life.

And why is this lesson specifically gleaned from tzora'as? Because the suffering of tzora'as - being considered as if dead and compelled to exist in absolute solitude - is one of the most severe in the Torah. If in this instance we can clearly see the benefit - being reborn anew, Tazria - then surely this is so with other punishments: they are all part of a sinner's spiritual rehabilitation, thus helping make a new beginning possible. (Based on Likkutei Sichos, Vol. XXII, pp. 70-73. (harabbi.com))

## The "Other" Passover Seder

*Here is an account of the Passover Seder which is experienced by women in Jewish households during the weeks and days prior to the holiday.*

**Kadesh:** *You daven to Hashem that this will be the year you will shut down your home and go away for Pesach to some far away luxurious hotel where the only work you'll be doing is lifting a "heavy" spoon filled with scrumptious food to your salivating mouth. After you wake up from your wonderful daydream and realize that you don't have much time left till Pesach, you start to....*

**Urchatz:** *Wash and clean, wash and clean...the wall, the ceilings, the windows, the blinds, the curtains, the light bulbs, in between the piano keys, all the little paper clips in your drawer, a million toys, a gazillion lego pieces, in between the crevices of your son's sneakers, etc.*

**Karpas:** *You take a nice long break, munching on a delicious Caesar Salad.*

**Yachatz:** *You break your back moving out your frig, oven, and any other large appliance or piece of furniture you can get your hands on, to find underneath them petrified pieces of Cheerios, the earring you lost last Pesach and yucky gook that you can't even name.*

**Magid:** *You call up your dear friend to see how she's doing with her cleaning, only to find that not only has she finished cleaning her whole house but that she has already kashered her kitchen and is cooking for Pesach. You scratch her name out of your phonebook and get back to....*

**Rochtsa:** *Washing and cleaning, washing and cleaning all the little beads in your daughter's bead collection, yesterday's breakfast on your toddler's board book....*

**Motzi Matza:** *You pull out a half eaten cream cheese sandwich from the front pocket of your son's backpack and shriek in horror as you wonder where else he may have hidden his sandwiches.*

**Maror:** *You taste the bitter taste of Windex as your toddler "accidentally" sprays you in the face while trying to help you "clean" for Pesach.*

**Korech:** *You quickly gobble down a sandwich as you realize you still haven't cleaned your car, the inside of your frig, the oven...etc.*

**Shulchan Orech:** *Your husband takes you out to dinner to a fancy restaurant as a token of his appreciation for all your hard work (and to avert a mutiny).*

**Tzaffoon:** *You finally find last year's Afikoman which your daughter had skillfully hidden under a pile of junk in you designated chametzdike closet.*

**Barech:** *You thank Hashem that at least once a year you have a spotless home.*

**Hallel:** *You praise Hashem for the concept of "selling you chametz" as you start taping up 80% of the cabinets, closets, and drawers in your home.*

**Nirtza:** *You pray to Hashem that this will truly be the last year you will have to clean for Pesach and that by next year you will be celebrating Pesach in Yerushalyim with Mashiach!*

Among my father's regular Torah-study sessions: A parsha of Chumash with Rashi daily; reciting Tanach by heart - a chapter each of Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim; a chapter of Mishnayot; a regular session in profound study of Gemara - two folio pages weekly, another in rapid study of Gemara - three pages daily; a session of study of the Jerusalem Talmud; a regular period for Codes, but not daily. During the course of the year he would conclude the entire Midrash Raba, "borrowing" from the long sedrot and "repaying" on the shorter ones. (From Rebbe's Hayom yom Nisan 3).

*At the threshold of liberation, darkness filled the land of Egypt. But in the homes of those to be liberated, there was only light.*

*-From the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe; rendered by Tzvi Freeman*

**PARTICIPATE IN DAILY CLASSES**

<u>Sunday</u>	8:00 AM	Gemara-Tractate Rosh Hashana (men)
<u>Monday</u>	8:00 PM	Chumash (men and women)
<u>Tuesday</u>	8:00 PM	Gemara-Tractate Makos (men)
<u>Wednesday</u>	8:30 PM	Halacha and Tanya (women)
<u>Thursday</u>	10:00 AM	Chassidus (women)
	8:00 PM	Class for Beverly Hills Highschool Students
<u>Daily</u>	6:45 to 7:15 AM	Chassidus
	Between Mincha and Maariv	Halacha

**There will be no class next week on Tuesday, April 8.**

**DAILY MINYONIM:**

**Shacharit: Mon-Fri 6:00 AM and 7:30 AM**

**Sunday 9:00 AM**

**Mincha/Maariv: 7:15 PM**

*Sunday, Nissan 11 (April 13) marks the 101<sup>th</sup>  
birthday of the Rebbe obm.*

*There will be a Melave Malka in Shul, next  
Saturday night at 8:30 P.M.*

*with a video presentation and farbrengen .*

*Everyone: men, women and children are invited to  
attend.*



**SHABBOS PARSHAS TAZRIA**

*April 4, 2003*

**Candlelighting:(Los Angeles) 5:58 PM**

**Friday Mincha: 6:15 PM**

**LATEST TIME FOR SHEMA: 8:47 AM**

**SHABBAT MORNING**

- **Tanya 8:45 AM**
- **Shacharit 9:30 AM followed by  
Kiddush & Cholent**
- **Hagada 5:00 PM**
- **Mincha 5:45 PM followed by  
Seuda Shlishit**
- **Shabbat ends 6:58 PM**

**Yartzeits:** Mordechai Salzburg – Nissan 8

**Happy Birthday** to Bessy Hirschhorn, Rochel Leah Shusterman, Chana Molayem, Dr. Moses A. Spira, Chaim Mendel Chodorow & Kayla Tannenbaum

**Mazel Tov** to Pazuelo family on the engagement of Raymonde to David Basherma of Capetown, South Africa.



**Don't forget to change your clocks  
ahead one hour this Saturday night.**

**GOOD SHABBOS!**